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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

ALL STAR WESTERN

Hexing Gotham City

For several decades, Jonah Hex has roamed the Old West, administering his own distinctive brand of justice. But not even the Old West is safe from the aftereffects of ***Flashpoint*** and its New 52 reset of DC continuity.

In the brave New 52 world, Jonah Hex has abandoned the wild west for the equally uncontrolled city of Gotham. And in only a few months, this Western hero has become the star in one of the most exciting unofficial Batman family books on the stands. Did writers *Jimmy Palmiotti* and *Justin Gray* ever foresee such an odyssey for the scarred Western anti-hero?

"Honestly, no," Palmiotti said, "but we're very happy for the book's success, and we're happy that DC had faith in us to take the character in another direction after such a long run on the previous title."

"It *does* feel strange," Gray said, "considering that we've been telling Hex stories for so long—and yet it also makes a lot of sense to be in Gotham for now, because there's a natural connection. If you look at ***Brave and Bold***, the crossover with Hex is one of the more memorable storylines."

The first Jonah Hex storyline in ***All Star Western*** finds him joining pioneering criminal psychologist Amadeus Arkham to track down Gotham's first serial killer, the Gotham Butcher. Will the Butcher have any links to contemporary Gotham City? "We're working very closely at all times with the Batman editorial office on a number of things," Palmiotti said, "so it's going to ben interesting year ahead to see what *does* and *doesn't* get picked up and placed in the book. I don't want to ruin anything by telling you what will and won't be included, though—sometimes too much info throws a wet blanket on the storyline."

Gray pointed out that both books share one major co-star: Gotham City. "The truth is that, between what Scott is doing in Batman and what we're doing in ***All-Star*** you see Gotham featured more as a character than in any other Bat books; this is by both accident and design. I think the result is that fans win – they get a much more expansive view of the mythology of the greatest fictional city in comics."

Another major aspect of Palmiotti and Gray's storyline is the Crime Bible—a plot device that seems tailor-made for a Batman crime dynasty. Does the 19th Century Crime Bible lay the groundwork for the twisted nature of contemporary Gotham City? "We've been kicking around ideas about Gotham and the legacy of crime for a long time," Gray said, "which might be surprising because we haven't done a Batman book! The idea of crime in all forms—along with Gotham's history—combined with our love of noir/crime—is finally getting us closer to telling the stories we have been developing for years."

"There are a number of ideas and storylines that we will be covering that are all about establishing the idea and roots of things to come in the Bat-universe," Palmiotti said. "There is just *so much* rich material to cover—and with the nature of ***All Star Western***, we have a lot of interesting ways to approach it all.

What led to the decision to relocate Jonah Hex to Gotham City? "The push for Hex in Gotham started over a year ago—and personally I was against it," Gray said. "The reason was that we'd spent so much time trying to get readers to embrace the Western in new ways and had so many more stories to tell—but the truthful answer is that it made complete sense.

"Once we embraced the idea, it all hinged on Arkham because, like it or not, he is one of the founding fathers of modern Gotham. The idea was to make him an individual and not just some sepia picture on a wall that seemed ancient and inhuman. The idea that Arkham would be paired with one of the most dangerous psychopaths in American history was thrilling. The idea that neither man knew the depth of their souls made this even *more* important. Arkham goes from being a guy who founded the psychology of Gotham's criminals to a man who is three-dimensional—at least, that's what we hope that we achieve that over the first year of stories!"

The team of Jonah Hex and Amadeus Arkham is a rather odd mix--an analytical observer and a responsive man of action. Will this turn out to be a long-term partnership, or are the two destined to separate fairly soon? "Jonah is going to meeting up with a *number* of assorted characters and Arkham is but one," Palmiotti said. "We see them working together on and off a couple of times this year though—but I think it would be become a totally separate book if we were just to keep them together all the time."

Has ***All Star Western's*** success extended Jonah's stay in the big city? "Gotham will become a very interesting character in Jonah's life. and you are correct in thinking we are influenced by what the fans enjoy— right now, Jonah and Gotham is the real odd couple in the book. We have had Jonah deal with big cities before, but this pairing up really has sparked our imagination in so many ways."

Gray offers some insight into Gotham's appeal. "There is a reason why Batman and his relationship to Gotham have endured in pop culture for so long—it is the dark mirror of our society," he said. "Gotham is an ever-changing and relevant metaphor. I think the same can be said of both Batman and Jonah Hex."

An upcoming story arc will find Jonah Hex venturing to the city of Metropolis; what is Metropolis like in the 1800's, and how will Hex fit in there? Justin Gray admits that he and Palmiotti are still fine-tuning those details. "Right now, we have a deeper connection to Gotham, only because we have only scratched the surface of the dynamic between Hex and Arkham. We've mapped out a sprawling tale that requires tying up loose ends with the groundwork presented in the first three issues. Once we do that, we can—and will—expand into the broader landscape of the 1880's DCU."

Does that mean that Hex will roam the 19th Century DCU, visiting other familiar settings, or will he eventually return to his traditional Western milieu? " That remains to be seen," Palmiotti said. "Remember, the readers really have a say in what works and what doesn't in this book. The thing one has to remember is the title is ***All Star Western***, so there are going to be a number of established characters, and some new ones, in some of the big cities as well."

" No one misses the Western landscape more than we do," Gray added, "but we did that for seventy issues. I feel like we've got an enormous backlog of hardcore 'spaghetti Western 'stories that many of the new readers are just discovering. That said, we have three years worth of stories mapped out now that include all the things we've talked about— Gotham, Metropolis, the open West—and now the real question is, 'Will readers follow us into any setting?'"

Will the experiences in Gotham and Metropolis change Hex? Will he have trouble going back to the life he knew before his city experiences? "*Every* experience shapes a person," Palmiotti said," "and I have a feeling that Jonah's hatred of cities is something he will never seem to get over—but as the United States grows, the places he was able to retreat to will start to shrink. It's what happened to the American West—and with an endless amount of stories to tell, we hope to one day cover this theme as well."

The writers are aware of some critics' claims that ***All Star Western*** is at times misogynistic. "We have a number of women in future issues who not only represent heroism, but also stand out as strong interesting characters," Gray said. "Anyone who has read our other collective work like ***Painkiller Jane, Daughters of the Dragon, Power Girl, Terra, Book Smart, Supergirl***, and others will realize that we're not shy when it comes to depicting women as powerful, complex, and competent people."

One of those characters is about to be featured in ***All Star Western's*** backup stories. "***All Star Western #4*** sees, for the first time, a new character called The Barbary Ghost; the story is about a Chinese girl seeking revenge in San Francisco during the 1880's," Palmiotti said. "This storyline is a three-part tale drawn by *Phil Winslade*. After that, we visit some more of the traditional established characters in the DCU, and we will continue to mix them all up; by the end of the first publishing year, there will be a few surprises in store."

What established characters can readers look forward to? "After the Barbary Ghost, we bring Nighthawk and Cinnamon to the stage in ways no one will expect," Gray said. "We love relatively unexplored characters like this, because they can be read with little or no baggage or expectations. Working with period piece stories, we can also take readers in so many unexpected directions. We have one of the most complex and humorous stories starring Bat Lash written, and it works in just eight pages. We take steampunk and mix it with American history, pit fighting, Native American mysticism, psychology, opium, kung fu—this book has *everything*, so I ask people to please give it a shot."

All Star Western, a $3.99 comic with a full-length lead story starring Jonah Hex and an eight page backup story starring different DCU Western characters, is a fourth-Wednesday DC title; the next issue, ***All Star Western #4,*** will be available for sale in comic shops on December 28th.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Prepare for 2012 FCBD Gold Rush

2011 may not be over quite yet, but publishers have been working for the past couple of months to plan their offerings for next May's Free Comic Book Day. Now the ten Gold Sponsor offerings have been announced—and based on this list, you're most *definitely* going to want to pay a visit to your friendly neighborhood comic shop on May 5th, 2012!

"We had a record amount of entries from publishers this year with more than forty-five different titles" said FCBD spokesperson Leslie Jackson regarding the FCBD committee's selection of ten Gold Sponsors and thirty-five Silver Sponsors . "Retailers on the committee had a tough time deciding on which titles to choose for Gold sponsorship, but we're sure fans will be pleased with the line-up for next year."

The Gold Sponsor comics for 2012 include:

•***Mouse Guard, Labyrinth & More HC Flip Book*** (Archaia Entertainment—written by ***Jeremy Bastian, Nate Cosby, Royden Lepp, Jim McCann, Ted Naifeh & David Petersen*** and illustrated by *Jeremy Bastian, Chris Eliopoulos, Cory Godbey, Janet Lee, Royden Lepp & David Petersen*): For the first time in FCBD history, a Gold Sponsor is offering not a standard comic book, but a full-color 6" x 9" 48-page hardcover graphic novel featuring six original eight-page stories. That's right—not reprint stories, not preview pages from upcoming book, but original stories produced specially for this hardcover! The stories include ***Mouse Guard, Jim Henson's Labyrinth, Rust, Cursed Pirate Girl, Cow Boy,*** and ***The Dapper Men*** (an original story that paves the way for the upcoming sequel graphic novel ***Time of the Dapper Men***).

•***Mega Man: Let the Games Begin*** (Archie Comics—written by *Ian Flynn*, illustrated by *Patrick "Spaz" Spaziante, John Workman, & Matt Herms)*: A special FCBD edition of the first issue of the hit *Mega Man* series.

•***2012 Bongo Comics Free-For-All/Spongebob Comics Freestyle Funnies Flipbook*** (Bongo Comics—written by *Matt Groening & Steve Hillenburg*, illustrated by *Sergio Aragones, James Kochalka, &* others): One side presents a proud tale from the boasting barflies of Moe's Tavern and a story from *Sergio Aragones'* past; the other side finds Spongebob reading an issue of Mermaid Man to a less-than-welcoming Squidward.

•***Peanuts/Adventure Time Flip Book*** (Boom Studios—written by *Charles Shulz, Vicki Scott, & Ryan North*, illustrated by *Charles Schulz, Ron Zorman,Vicki Scott, Paige Braddock, Shelli Paroline, & Braden Lamb*): On one side, Charlie Brown and Snoopy, along with the entire Peanuts gang, come to Free Comic Book Day! On the other side -- boy Finn and his dog Jake, along with the entire cast of the hot new Cartoon Network series ***Adventure Time***, adventure in the Land of Ooo.

•***Star Wars/Serenity Flip Book*** (Dark Horse—written by *Zack Whedon*, art by *Davide Fabbri, Fabio Moon, & Christian Dalla Vecchia)*: Han Solo and Chewbacca have a falling-out after a deal with a shady customer goes bad. When the client gets designs on the Millennium Falcon, Han and Chewie present a united front that can't be beat! Then, on the flipside—"Mal" Reynolds, captain of the outlaw vessel ***Serenity,*** is no stranger to jobs gone wrong. But when the chips are down, he's able to rely on an amazing, odd, and diversely talented crew for help!

•***DC Comics—The New 52 FCBD Edition*** (DC Comics) - Get an exclusive look of what's happening in the New 52 in 2012 in this special book, written and illustrated by today's top creators.

•***Transformers #80.5*** (IDW—written by *Simon Furman*, illustrated by *Andrew Wildman & Stephen Baskerville):* The wait is over--after a 20-year hiatus, IDW proudly returns to the original ***Transformers*** comic book universe, picking up right where 1991's ***Transformers #80*** left off!

•***Image 20*** (Image Comics) - An anthology featuring all-new stories with a mix of Image's old and new best loved characters!

•***Avengers #12.1*** (Marvel—written by *Brian Bendis*, illustrated by *Bryan Hitch):* a FCBD reprint edition of this April 2011 offering that leads into the upcoming high-stakes Avengers event with a battle between the Avengers and the Intelligencia, the return of SWORD, and the disappearance of Spider-Woman!

•***Yo Gabbba Gabba*** (Oni Press—written by *Jamie S. Rich, Kali Fontecchio, Frank Pittarese, Evan Dorkin, & Sarah Dyer*, illustrated by *Michael Allred, Kali Fontecchio, Jarrett Williams, Evan Dorkin, Han Allred, Rico Renzi, & Sarah Dyer*): From the hit Nickelodeon show! Come join your Gabba Land pals Muno, Foofa, Brobee, Toodee, Plex, and of course DJ Lance Rock for a series of fun-filled adventures! Plus, an awesome Super Martian Robot Girl tale, too!

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

YOUR NEW SALARY IS HOW MUCH?
$10,000 A MONTH—CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
MY AGENT GOT IT BECAUSE OUR SHOW'S A HIT ON BROADWAY, BUT...
DON'T SWEAT IT, HONEY. I THINK WE CAN SQUEAK BY!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-5
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COMIC SHOP NEWS

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And if that's not enough to make you consider getting in line now for FCBD, be here next week when we reveal the Silver Sponsor offerings list!

CSNsider

•*Brian Wood* returns to Marvel Comics in 2012 with ***Wolverine & the X-Men: Alpha and Omega,*** a five issue miniseries illustrated by *Roland Baschi & Mark Brooks* that focuses on Logan and Quentin Quire. "Logan pisses him off," Wood said. "Within a couple of pages, he picks this huge fight; that fight takes us through the five issues. It's all on Quentin's terms... He's an extremely powerful telepath. That's the nature of this battle—it's a telepathic war." Wood added that the series also offers a student's-eye view of the Jean Grey School.

Editor *Jeanine Schafer* is thrilled with Wood's work on the limited series. "I knew that Brian would just *kill* with Quentin," Schafer said. "He is writing the hell out of him; I love every single line that comes out of his mouth."

Wolverine & the X-Men: Alpha and Omega #1 is slated for early January release.

•***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season Eight,*** a perennial seller in trade paperback, is about to get the upscale treatment. This May, Dark Horse will launch the first volume in a four-book series of deluxe oversized dust-jacketed hardcovers.

The first hardcover will include the first two arcs as presented in ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season Eight #s 1-10,*** featuring stories written by *Joss Whedon* and *Brian K. Vaughan,* respectively; the collection also includes two oneshot issues, a cover gallery featuring both the regular and variant cover art, and exclusive never-before-seen sketch material. Look for it on May 30th.

Also on the schedule is ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season Nine: Freefall TP,*** collecting the first five issues of the new series written by *Joss Whedon & Andrew Chambliss.* ***Freefall*** is slated for early August release.

•Bad news for fans of the delightful Silver Age Tower Comics ***T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents,*** featuring work by *Wally Wood, Reed Crandall, Mike Sekowsky, Steve Ditko, Gil Kane,* and many others: DC has cancelled orders for ***T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents Chronicles Volume 1 TP,*** which was slated to reprint the first four issues of the landmark series. The title will not be resolicited, so fans looking for this material will have to check out the Archive Editions instead.

•DC has also cancelled orders for ***Supergirl: Good Looking Corpse TP;*** this title will not be resolicited.

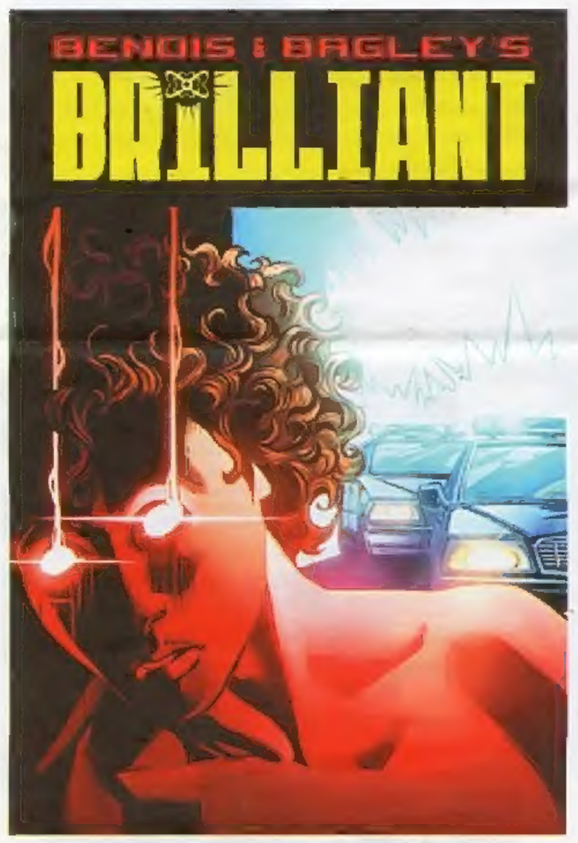
•Marvel has announced that *Mark Millar & John Romita Jr.'s* ***Kick-Ass 2 #6,*** the final issue in the limited series, will *definitely* be released on 12/28, fulfilling the promise that the series would wrap up in 2011. The book will also be offered in a 1-for-15 ***Kick-Ass 2 #6 Photo Variant*** (AUG118169).

•Marvel introduces a new format with ***Fantastic Four #601:*** referred to by Marvel as a "self-cover format," the book will feature the same paper stock on the cover and the interior (and Marvel indicates that the stock will be closer to cover stock than standard interior stock).

•*Carlos Pacheco* will get an art assist from *Paco Diaz & Rodney Buchemi* in ***Uncanny X-Men #3.***

•Doctor Who fans take note: Bluewater will focus on the cast of the popular series in the pages of ***Orbit: The Cast of Doctor Who,*** a biographical offering by *Paul Salamoff & Jaime Martinez Rodriguez* with cover art by *Joe Phillips.* The book will offer bios of *William Hartnell, Tom Baker, Paul McGann, & Matt Smith;* a special graphic novel version of the book will also include a bio of actor *Peter Cushing,* who played the Doctor in two films. "We felt that a show like *Doctor Who* needed to have a bio-comic done," said *Darren Davis,* president of Bluewater Comics. "There were

so many fine actors who played the role of the time traveler, we just wanted to highlight the careers of a handful of the actors." Look for both the comic and the graphic novel edition in January.

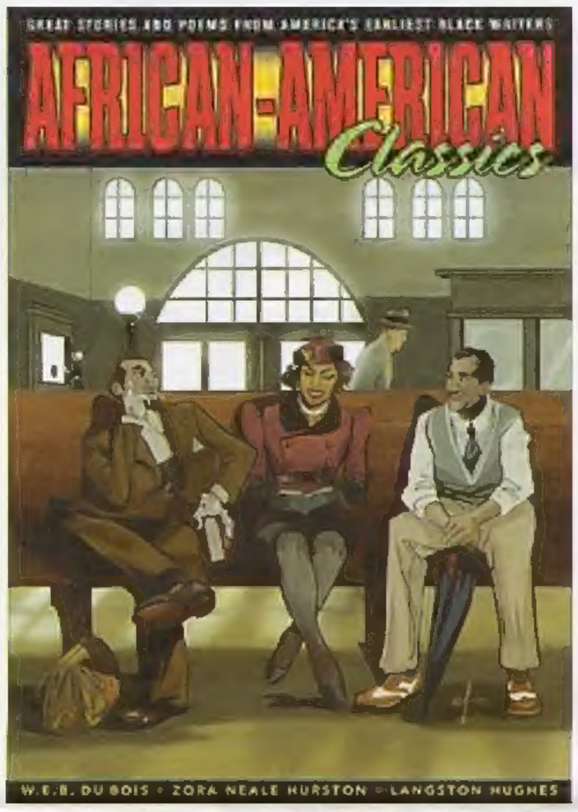


•*Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley's* ***Brilliant*** has been promoted from a five-issue limited series to an ongoing series.

•A couple of printing problems to report: the initial shipments of DC's ***Showcase Presents Ghosts TP*** and Image's ***Morning Glories HC*** featured printing errors (the former is missing a page, the latter includes a page without lettering). In both cases, the publishers are releasing corrected editions; if you got one of the error editions, you can exchange it at the shop where you bought the errata copy.

•Eureka Productions's next ***Graphics Classic*** volume, ***African-American Classics,*** not only focuses on the work of acclaimed black authors, it also *features* the work of acclaimed black comics writers and artists. The volume is co-edited by *Tom Pomplun & Lance Tooks.*

"This is an unprecedented opportunity to expose young readers of all races to a group of brilliant American authors who've never been adapted into the comics medium, interpreted by some of our industry's top talent," co-editor *Lance Tooks* said.


GREAT STORIES AND POEMS FROM AMERICA'S EARLIEST BLACK WRITERS
AFRICAN-AMERICAN Classics
W.E.B. DU BOIS • ZORA NEALE HURSTON • LANGSTON HUGHES

African-American Classics includes adaptations of "Two Americans" by *Florence Lewis Bentley,* "The Goophered Grapevine" by *Charles W. Chesnutt,* "Becky" by *Jean Toomer,* two short plays by *Zora Neale Hurston,* and six more tales of humor and tragedy. Also featured are graphic interpretations of eleven poems, including *Langston Hughes'* "The Negro," *Claude McKay's* "America," and *Paul Laurence Dunbar's* "Sympathy." Contributors include *Kyle Baker, Alex Simmons, Christopher Priest, Afua Richardson, Trevor Von Eeden, Jeremy Love,* and *Milton Knight.*

Graphic Classics Volume 22: African-American Classics is slated for mid-December release.

Back to Press

•***Justice League #1 5th Printing*** (OCT118138), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores on January 4th.

THEN YOU'RE NOT JEALOUS OF THE MONEY I'LL BE MAKING NOW?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-6
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'COURSE NOT! I'VE GOT MY LIFE AS SPIDER-MAN—GOT THE GREATEST WIFE IN THE WORLD—
—AND JAMESON PAYS ME FOR PIX I TAKE OF MYSELF!
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM

ACTION COMICS #5

Grant Morrison (W); Andy Kubert & Jess Delperdang (A)

(DC NOV110125 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

While Metropolis suffers under the onslaught of an attack from an alien threat, key facts regarding the past of the city's *other* alien—Kal-El from Krypton, aka Superman—come to light.

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison is laying the groundwork for all that the New 52 is in the pages of this series, which stars this DCU's first superhero. And as an added bonus, there's guest art from *Andy Kubert*, one of the field's most talented visual storytellers.

ANIMAL MAN #5

Jeff Lemire (W); Travel Foreman & Jeff Huet (A)

(DC NOV110166 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

When a superhero faces off against his enemies, it's bad news for the bad guys, right? Maybe not, as Buddy's confrontation with the Hunters Three results in the Baker family going on the run...

Why Should You Care?

DC's Dark titles have become one of the bright points of the New 52 line, and ***Animal Man*** is right up there with ***Swamp Thing*** at the head of the pack, thanks largely to *Jeff Lemire's* edgy storytelling.

BATMAN: THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS HC

Bruce Jones (W); Sam Kieth (A)

(DC SEP110169 $22.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batman's first meeting with the mad Hatter lands him in a Wonderland very different from any that Alice ever visited. But is this place a mere hallucination... and if the Dark Knight is hallucinating, how is he also managing to solve several mysteries that have plagued Gotham for years?

Why Should You Care?

Bruce Jones and *Sam Kieth*, two of comics' masters of mood, join forces for this original graphic novel that's a must-see followup to Kieth's ***Batman: Arkham Asylum—Madness.***

BIRDS OF PREY #5

Duane Swierczynski (W); Jesus Saiz & Javier Pina (A)

(DC NOV110146 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batgirl may have joined the team, but her presence on the team doesn't mean that Gotham is safe from danger...

Why Should You Care?

Duane Swierczynski adds Barbara Gordon as a regular member of the new Birds of Prey—but the Batgirl Barbara Gordon is very different from the Oracle Barbara Gordon who was a part of the pre-New 52 team! Still, Barbara's addition brings a balance to the group dynamic... if you can call one heroine among a group of outlaws a balance!

DANGER GIRL: REVOLVER #1 (OF 4)

Andy Hartnell with J. Scott Campbell (W); Chris Madden (A)

(IDW NOV110287 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

For the first time ever, a new member is joining the Danger Girl ranks!

Why Should You Care?

Andy Hartnell & J. Scott Campbell raised the bar for sexy spies with the high-energy ***Danger Girl;*** while Campbell is only supplying story input and cover art for this series, he and Hartnell have enlisted the very capable *Chris Madden* to do the honors in his place.

DETECTIVE COMICS #5

Tony Daniel (W); Tony Daniel & Sandu Florea (A)

(DC NOV110138 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

There's been a series of assassinations in the criminal underworld - and The Penguin is among Batman's first suspects! But the situation becomes even more urgent when seemingly ordinary women become part of the killings—and Bruce Wayne's girlfriend, investigative reporter Charlotte Rivers, is on the list!

Why Should You Care?

Since the shock ending of ***Detective Comics #1,*** *Tony Daniel's 'Tec* has become the flagship bat-book. And now Daniel offers a version of the Penguin that's every bit as twisted as his Joker!

CSN TOP COM

FATALE #1

Ed Brubaker (W); Sean Phillips (A)

(Image NOV110354 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

A reporter in 2012 stumbles on a secret that leads him down the darkest path imaginable... to a seductive woman who's been on the run since 1935, a mobster who may be an immortal demon monster, and the stories of all the doomed men who've been caught in their decades-long struggle.

Why Should You Care?

Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips, the men responsible for the noir drama ***Criminal*** and its super-villainous spinoff ***Incognito,*** present the fusion of horror and noir in this compelling series.

GREEN LANTERN #5

Geoff Johns (W); Doug Mahnke & Christian Alamy (A)

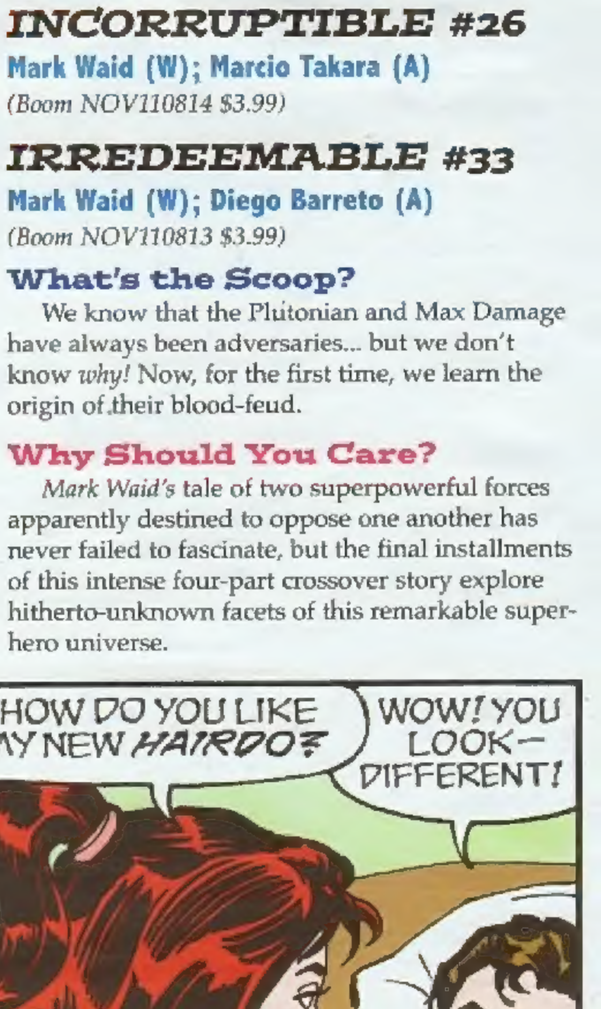
(DC NOV110154 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The unlikely team of Sinestro and Hal Jordan invade the planet Korugar in a last-ditch effort to liberate the world from the tyranny of the Sinestro Corps... but can they resist fighting one another long enough to face off against a host of baddies?

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns & Doug Mahnke have made the saga of the ring-wielding odd couple one of the highlights of DC's New 52—and while we know it can't go on forever, we're going to enjoy it for as long as it lasts!



INCORRUPTIBLE #26

Mark Waid (W); Marcio Takara (A)

(Boom NOV110814 $3.99)

IRREDEEMABLE #33

Mark Waid (W); Diego Barreto (A)

(Boom NOV110813 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

We know that the Plutonian and Max Damage have always been adversaries... but we don't know *why!* Now, for the first time, we learn the origin of their blood-feud.

Why Should You Care?

Mark Waid's tale of two superpowerful forces apparently destined to oppose one another has never failed to fascinate, but the final installments of this intense four-part crossover story explore hitherto-unknown facets of this remarkable superhero universe.

MORNING...
WOW! IT'S LATE! MUST HAVE OVERSLEPT!
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ICS: JANUARY

INFESTATION 2 #1

Duane Swierscynski (W); David Messina (A)

(IDW NOV110253 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

As if an onslaught of zombies wasn't bad enough, now the IDW multiverse has to deal with the threat of Lovecraftean beings with the power to reach across time and space to destroy every inhabitant of every multiverse.

Why Should You Care?

Cthulhu versus Captain Kirk? Shub-Niggurath versus Snake-Eyes? Dagon Versus the Danger Girls? Well, something like that, anyway! And as far as we're concerned, *any* storyline ambitious enough to link these diverse fictional realities is a must-read... and when Lovecraftean creatures are involved, that makes it even better!

JUSTICE LEAGUE #5

Geoff Johns (W); Jim Lee & Scott Williams (A)

(DC NOV110104 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

If they hope to defeat the menace of Darkseid, the heroes are going to have to put their differences aside and work as a true team for the first time. Can they do it? You bet!

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns & Jim Lee are not only telling the story of the Justice League's first meeting, they're also offering intriguing insights into the early, formative experiences of the DCU's mightiest heroes. If you want to fully understand the current New 52 status quo, this is the place to start!

KIRBY: GENESIS—DRAGONSBANE #1

Robert Rodi (W); Fritz Casas (A)

(Dynamite NOV110870 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Sigurd Dragonsbane may be the greatest champion in all Valhalla, but that means a little less than it did before Sigurd and his friends discovered that Valhalla is just one of scores of mythic realms linked together in a vast magical landscape...

Why Should You Care?

Jack Kirby may be best known for his high-octane superhero visuals and his stunning cosmic art, but his fantasy work is finally getting the attention it's due in this series that blends together diverse myths and legends to form a single fantastic landscape populated by those distinctive Kirby hero archetypes.

PEANUTS #1 (OF 4)

Charles Schulz, Vicki Scott, & others (W/A)

(Boom NOV110837 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, Snoopy, and the gang are moving from the comic strip page to the comic shop!

Why Should You Care?

Since *Charles Shulz* passed away more than a decade ago, ***Peanuts*** fans have had to satisfy themselves with comic strip reprints—but not any more! Boom is blending classic Sunday strip reprints with all-new, original stories produced by the talented folks at Charles M Schulz Creative Associates—and that's as close to new Shulz material as anyone could hope for!

SCARLET SPIDER #1

Christopher Yost (W); Ryan Stegman (A)

(Marvel NOV110519 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The webslinger relocates to Houston, Texas! No, not Spider-Man... it's that *other* web-slinger, The Scarlet Spider, swinging his way from ***Spider-Island*** to Marvel's monthly lineup.

Why Should You Care?

It's time to send in the clones! Peter Parker's clone, Kaine, puts a little distance between himself and his "twin" by heading South, where he establishes a new base of operations and a new dynamic for the Spider-franchise.

SUNDAY FUNNIES #1

Winsor McCay, Alex Raymond, Milton Caniff, & others (W/A)

(Russ Cochran NOV111087 $10.00)

What's the Scoop?

Gasoline Alley... Flash Gordon... Little Nemo... Buck Rogers... Alley Oop... Terry and the Pirates... some of comics' most legendary strips are presented in the 32 page *uber*-comics-section that offers full-size (22" x 16") high-quality full-color reprints of these historic strips from yesteryear, in a format similar to DC's ***Wednesday Comics*** (for those of you not lucky enough to have experiences the newspaper Sunday Funnies section in its prime).

Why Should You Care?

Short of building a time machine, this is the closest you can come to experiencing the excitement of the Sunday Funnies from the first half of the 20th Century.

TRANSFORMERS: MORE THAN MEETS EYE ONGOING #1

James Roberts (W); Nick Roche (A)

(IDW NOV110264 $3.99)

TRANSFORMERS: ROBOTS IN DISGUISE ONGOING #1

John Barber (W); Andrew Griffith (A)

(IDW NOV110260 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

In a world without Optimus Prime, Bumblebee and his fellow Autobots struggle to maintain control in ***Robots in Disguise***, while the Transformers embark on an epic quest to the farthest reaches of the Transformerverse in ***More Than Meets the Eye***.

Why Should You Care?

In a rare move for the publisher of a licensed property, IDW has shaken up their ***Transformers*** line with the death of Optimus Prime. What will that do to the franchise? Readers will get the big picture beginning with the premiere issues of these two new ongoing series.

UNCANNY X-FORCE #19.5

Rick Remender (W); Billy Tan (A)

(Marvel NOV110575 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Age of Apocalypse X-Men make their final stand against Weapon X.

Why Should You Care?

Don't think of this as the end of a battle—instead, think of it as the beginning of a new series, since it leads directly into the *Age of Apocalypse* ongoing series!

VAMPIRELLA VS DRACULA #1

Joe Harris (W); Jean Diaz (A)

(Dynamite NOV110913 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Dracula comes to America to sample international cuisine of the sanguine sort. Problem is, another vampire already beat him to the choice morsels! So what inexorable force is drawing the two vampires together in a collision course?

Why Should You Care?

Joe Harris & Jean Diaz present a masterful vampires-on-the-seas-of-fate storyline inspired by a rarely seen *Alan Moore-Gary Frank* gem of a short story—and then, to make sure it's seen more widely, Dynamite reprints that Moore-Frank tale in the kickoff issue!

WOMANTHOLOGY: HEROIC HC

(IDW NOV110296 $50.00)

What's the Scoop?

This 300-page oversized hardcover features short stories by more than 140 female comics creators, all centered around one simple theme: Heroic.

Why Should You Care?

With original work from such comics stars as *Anne Nocenti, Barbara Kesel, Gail Simone, Trina Robbins, Colleen Doran, and Stephanie Buscema*, this book is a showcase for contemporary female comics talent. And if new stories and art aren't enough, this book also includes a number of other features, such as Professional How-To's, a Kids/Teens section showcasing their works and giving tips, as well as a section dedicated to iconic female comic creators of the past.

Collected Cool: January's Best Reprint Volumes

ANNOTATED SANDMAN HC VOL 1

(Vertigo/DC AUG110277 $49.99)

Acclaimed literary researcher and analyst *Leslie Klinger* supplies the annotated text that accompanies the first twenty issues of the acclaimed series.

YOU SNEAKED OUT AT DAWN—TO GET YOUR HAIR DONE BY THE PLAY'S STYLIST?
ALL BECAUSE OF A WEIRD DREAM I HAD!
I WAS RIDING A WINGED HORSE—WITH THIS HAIR-DO, AND—
WOW! IT'S LUCKY YOU DIDN'T DREAM YOU WERE BALD-HEADED!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-8
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BROTHERS OF THE SPEAR ARCHIVES HC VOL 1

(Dark Horse SEP110042 $49.99)

This fondly-remembered ***Tarzan*** backup series by *Gaylord DuBois & Russ Manning* is collected, allowing readers to once again enjoy the clean, strong linework that makes Manning one of the Silver Age's most underrated talents.

DREADSTAR OMNIBUS TP

(Dynamite NOV110943 $29.99)

Dreadstar is back in the pages of Breed, which makes this a particularly good time for Dynamite to offer this affordably priced compilation of the 1980s *Jim Starlin* ***Dreadstar #1-12***, scanned from the original film.

HAWKMAN BY GEOFF JOHNS OMNIBUS HC VOL 1

(DC SEP110186 $75.00)

Re-experience one of the series that put *Geoff Johns* on the map; this hefty hardcover reprints. ***Hawkman #1-25, JSA #56-58,*** and ***Hawkman Secret Files.***

MARVEL FIRSTS: 1970S TP VOL 1

(Marvel NOV110636 $29.99)

The 1970s were a period of explosive expansion for Marvel, and this volume offers some of the highlight from that wonderful decade, including the first issues of ***Dracula, Man-Thing, Luke Cage,*** and many others.

MARVEL MASTERWORKS ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH HC VOL 4

(Marvel AUG110688 $59.99)

Not only does this volume ***Tales to Astonish #31-34*** (the final pre-hero issues of the series), but it also includes all those non-superhero backup tales from ***Tales to Astonish #35-51 & #54.***

RESURRECTION MAN TP VOL 1

(DC OCT110247 $29.99)

Resurrection has been very good for ***Resurrection Man,*** so now it's time to dig up those original adventures from the too-short-lived ***Resurrection Man #1-14.***

SHOWCASE PRESENTS THE SPECTRE TP VOL 1

(DC OCT110255 $19.99)

The Silver Age exploits of DC's first cosmic metaphysical hero are collected in this hefty black and white volume that reprints Spectre tales from ***Showcase #60, 61 & 64, Brave and Bold #72, 75, 116, 180 & 199, Spectre #1-10, Adventure #431-440, DC Comics Presents #29,*** and ***Ghosts #97-99.***

SINCEREST FORM OF PARODY: SATIRICAL COMICS TP

(Fantagraphics NOV110989 $24.99)

The success of ***Mad*** led to a whole subgenre of ***Mad*** wannabees from a host of publishers; this volume offers some of the best material from some of those ***Mad*** imitators of the 1950s.

SPAWN COMPENDIUM TP VOL 1

(Image NOV110412 $59.99)

Get ready to experience the world of Spawn in black and white, thanks to this massive 984-page compendium that reprints ***Spawn #1-49.*** What better way to appreciate *Todd McFarlane* in his artistic prime?

STEVE DITKO OMNIBUS HC VOL 2

(DC AUG110256 $59.99)

The second volume of DC's comprehensive Ditko reprint collection includes ***Showcase #75, Hawk & Dove #1-2,*** and ***Man-Bat #1,*** along with material from ***Detective #483-485 & 487, Adventure #467-468, Legion of Super-Heroes #267, 268, 274, 276 & 281,*** and much more.

X-MEN BY CLAREMONT AND LEE OMNIBUS HC VOL 2

(Marvel AUG110684 $125.00)

Can't get enough *Jim Lee* in the pages of ***Justice League*** every month? Then check out this compendium of classic 1990s Claremont-Lee mutant masterworks, featuring material from ***X-Men #273-280, X-Factor (1986) #63-70, Ghost Rider (1990) #26-27,*** and ***X-Men (1991) #1-9*** (and material from #10-11).

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

COMICS & US SOUTH SC

(University Press of Mississippi NOV111195 $55.00)

An insightful look at many ways that the South is portrayed in comics; includes commentary on works by *Walt Kelly, Kyle Baker, Howard Cruse,* and *Josh Neufeld.*

HAND OF FIRE COMICS ART OF JACK KIRBY SC

(University Press of Mississippi OCT111328 $25.00)

Charles Hatfield analyzes the development of Kirby's cartooning technique, his use of dynamic composition, the recurring themes in his work.

STAN LEE'S SECRETS BEHIND THE COMICS SC

(Pure Imagination NOV111076 $20.00)

Greg Theakston presents this reprint of Stan Lee's 1947 guide to the creation and production of comics—one of the first serious looks at the creative side of the comics art form!

Hot Commodities:
January's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

COVER GIRLS OF THE DCU STARFIRE STATUE

(DC Direct APR110267 $99.99)

Adam Hughes' design art is the inspiration for this *Jack Mathews* sculpt of the alien princess turned Teen Titan.

SO—HOW DO YOU LIKE MY NEW HAIRSTYLE?
HONEY, YOU LOOK LIKE A GODDESS!
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I'M SURPRISED YOU CHANGED YOUR HAIRSTYLE BECAUSE OF A DREAM.
IT WAS SUCH A VIVID DREAM.
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CYCLOPS RETRO STATUE

(Bowen AUG111822 $200.00)

It's Scott Summers in all his blue-and-gold-clad glory, just as he appeared in the pages of those remarkable Silver Age issues almost five decades ago!

HEROES OF THE DCU SERIES 2: SWAMP THING BUST

(DC Direct NOV110245 $95.00)

Gary Frank supplies the design art for this striking statue depicting the Swamp Thing in all his elemental glory.

Check 'Em Out:
Books You *Should* Be Reading

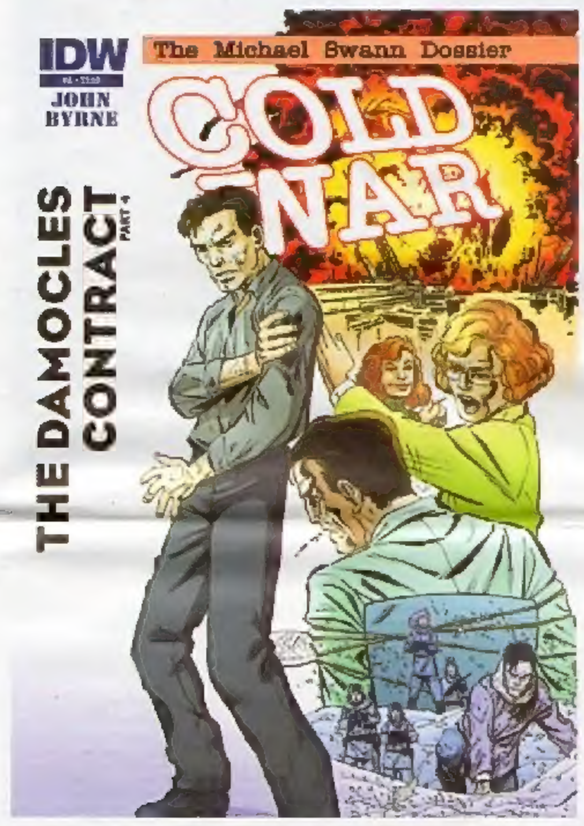
BRILLIANT #2

(Icon/Marvel JUN110712 $3.95)

BRILLIANT #3

(Icon/Marvel SEP110627 $3.95)

Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley continue their tale of a group of brilliant college kids who crack the super-power code—but what they do with their new-found powers isn't necessarily heroic!



COLD WAR #4

(IDW NOV110299 $3.99)

Former MI-6 agent Michael Swann tries to keep nuclear weapons out of Russian hands in the final issue of *John Byrne's* cold war miniseries... but he may be too late! ***Cold War*** proves that, like ***Mad Men,*** the best spy dramas *must* be set in the 1960s.

FRANKENSTEIN, AGENT OF SHADE #5

(DC NOV110167 $2.99)

OMAC #5

(DC NOV110177 $2.99)

The New 52's first crossover tale begins in ***OMAC,*** then continues in the pages of ***Frankenstein,*** offering two very different views of the same confrontation.

HELLRAISER #9

(Boom SEP110864 $3.99)

Clive Barker presents new chapters in the series' official continuity, a trajectory that will forever change the Cenobites while bringing out Pinhead's feminine side.

LEGION OF SUPER HEROES #5

(DC NOV110189 $2.99)

Guest artist *Walter Simonson* illustrates a day in the life of the Legion... and makes us wish that Simonson wasn't just a guest artist!

PUNISHERMAX #21

(Marvel MAX NOV110590 $3.99)

The confrontation between the Punisher and the Kingpin leads towards an inexorable series finale... and they don't get much more final than this!

SERGIO ARAGONES' FUNNIES #7

(Bongo NOV110798 $3.50)

Silliness, personal history, satires, spoofs, activity pages—how can Sergio pack this much fun in the pages of every issue?

SHADE #4 (OF 12)

(DC NOV110161 $2.99)

James Robinson has brought back one of Starman's best known villains—and now he resurrects one of Starman's best known traditions: the "Times Past" story. This time, we get a tale of revenge, murder and betrayal set in the 1940s.

FROM THE PAGES OF JENNIFER BLOOD

THE NINJETTES™

ISSUE #1

WRITTEN BY AL EWING ART BY EMAN CASALLOS
COVERS BY ADMIRA WIJAYA AND JOHNNY DESJARDINS

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—Cory Doctorow

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—Grant Morrison

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AN ORIGINAL GRAPHIC NOVEL

WRITTEN BY

DOUGLAS RUSHKOFF

(Program or Be Programmed, Life Inc., TESTAMENT)

ART BY

GORAN SUDŽUKA

JOSÉ MARZÁN, JR.

JANUARY 2012

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